

of reasoning, and a faculty of making a question plain to the understanding, by the mere terms in which it is presented, are the traits which uniformly distinguish his writings, evident alike in a diplomatic note, a legislative debate and an historical discourse. His dignity of expression, breath of view, and force of thought, realize the ideal of a republican statesman, in regard, at least, to natural endowments; and his presence and manner in the prime of life were analogous. Independent of their logical and rhetorical merit, the writings may be deemed invaluable from the nationality of their tone and spirit.

In the speeches of Clay there is a chivalric freshness, which readily explains his great popularity as a man, not so profound as Webster, he is far more rhetorical and equally patriotic.

Calhoun is eminently individual; his mind has that precise energy which is so effectual in debate; his style of argument is concise, and in personal aspect he was quite as remarkable—the incarnation of intense purpose and keen perception.

These and many other eminent men have admirably illustrated that department of oratory which belong to statesmen. While in the domain of history, Prescott, Ramsay and Bancroft made her story eloquent. Irving peopled 'Sleepy Hollow' with fanciful creations. Longfellow described not only with grace but with devotional sentiment, the characteristic scenes in his native land; Cooper introduced Europeans to the wonders of her forest and seacoast. Bishops England, Spalding and others have materially adorned the literature of the Church—among the writings of the former, may be mentioned that on classical education; on the pleasure of scholars; on the origin and history of the duel, which for high morality and beautiful sentiment, as well as chaste and graceful diction, gave a

literary value and interest to education which soon exercised a marked influence on the literary taste of the community. Whilst among the works of the latter, who was a writer of varied powers, may be mentioned sketches of the early Catholic missions of Kentucky; the life and times of Bishop Flaget; the history of the Protestant Reformation in all countries. Miscellanea, in which his erudition and deep perceptions of character and his sense of religious truth, are evinced in the most carefully finished and nobly conceived writings; their tone is lofty, often sublime; the language is finely chosen and there is about them evidence of gradual and patient labor rare in American literature.

Among the latest and most indefatigable laborers in the field of poetry, was Abram J. Ryan, the poet-priest of the South. Among his works the most popular are: the Conquered Banner; Erin's Flag; the Sword of Robert Lee, and Song of the Mystic—works which will live in song and story, whilst the Potomac seeks the Chesapeake or the Mississippi sweeps on its course to the Mexican sea. In the happy rise of native materials, as well as in the religious sentiment and love of freedom, Abram J. Ryan is to be recognized as one of the best representatives of American poetry. It is a leading article in the Yankee creed, to turn every endowment to account, and although a poet is generally left to chew the cud of sweet and bitter fancies, as he lists, occasions are not unfrequent when even their services are available. To subserve the objects of party, to acquire a reputation upon which office may be sought, and to gratify personal ambition, the American poet is often tempted to sacrifice his true fame and the dignity of art to the demands of occasion. To this weakness Ryan has been invariably superior. He preserved the elevation which he so